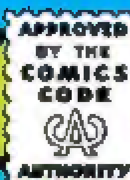
THE ETERNALS

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



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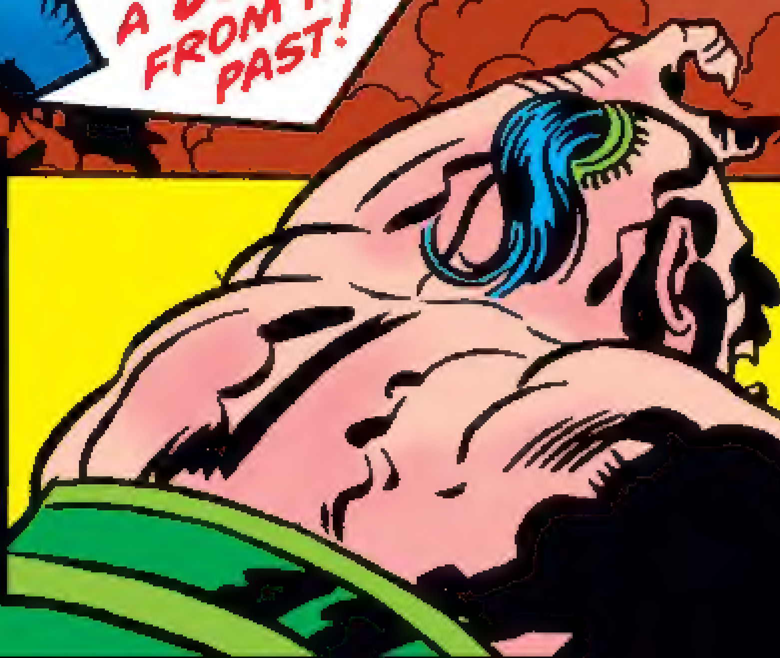
WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

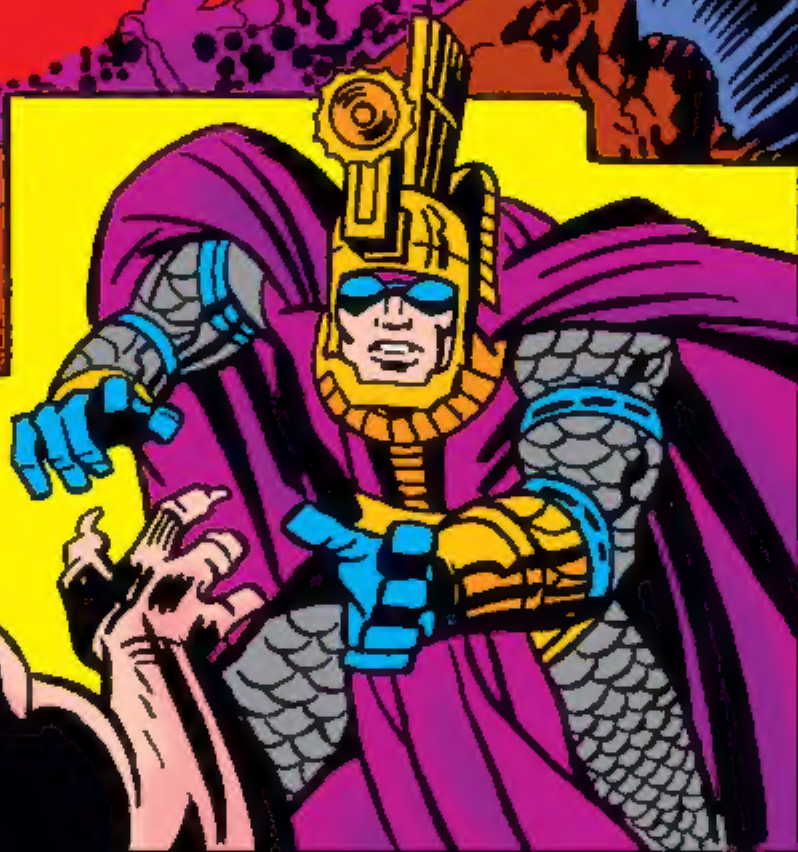
THE ETERNALS™

UNLEASHED THIS ISSUE! UNI-MIND! THE MOST FANTASTIC LIFE FORM OF ALL!



PLUS: AJAX THE ETERNAL BATTLES A DEMON FROM THE PAST!





Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

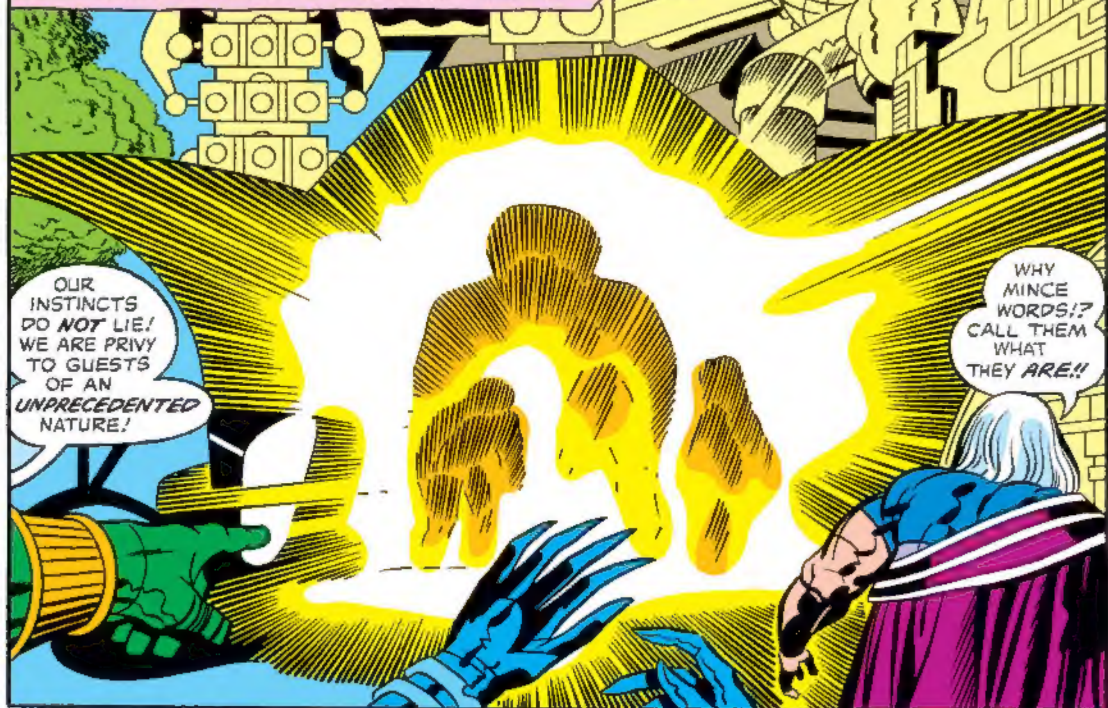
Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE ETERNALS!**™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY / INKED AND LETTERED BY: MIKE ROYER / COLORED BY: GLYNIS WEIN / MAJOR-DOMOED BY: ARCHIE GOODWIN

IN TIMES OF GLOBAL CRISIS, THINGS CHANGE IN ALL PLACES. THINGS HAPPEN TO SHOCK AND DISMAY AND SET FEAR TO SEEP INTO THE UNIVERSAL HEART. AS THE RETURN OF THE SPACE GODS TO EARTH BEGINS TO STIR HUMANS EVERYWHERE, THE MARBLE HALLS OF OLYMPIA, MOUNTAIN-TOP CITY OF THE ETERNALS, SEETHES WITH EVENTS WHICH CAN ONLY BE COPED WITH BY THE STRANGE RITUAL KNOWN AS...

UNI-MIND!



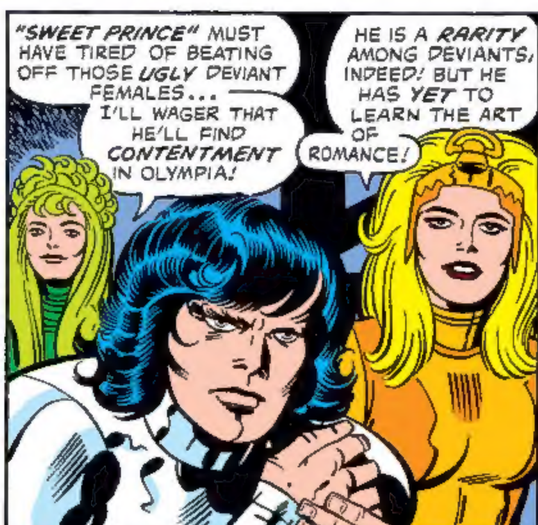

THE NEW ARRIVALS TO OLYMPIA MATERIALIZE IN THE MANNER COMMON TO THE ABILITIES OF ALL ETERNALS. IT IS A BRILLIANT FLASH OF LIGHT, CONTAINING WITHIN ITS GLOWING CENTER THE ASSEMBLING ATOMS OF THE TRAVELLERS...
OUR INSTINCTS DO NOT LIE! WE ARE PRIVY TO GUESTS OF AN UNPRECEDENTED NATURE!
WHY MINCE WORDS!? CALL THEM WHAT THEY ARE!!


DEVIANTS! DEVIANTS-- HERE--IN A CITY OF THE ETERNALS!!
WHO AMONG US COULD HAVE BEEN SO RECKLESS AS TO TRAFFIC WITH THEIR KIND?
YES... WHO BUT THE DAUGHTER OF GREAT ZURAS, HIMSELF!

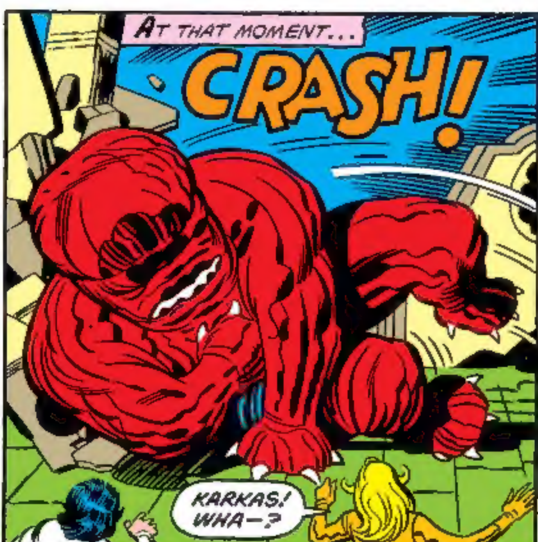

YOU'RE RIGHT! I-IT'S THENA! --SHE'S BACK!
OLYMPIA--! --THIS IS A WELCOME SIGHT!!
OLYMPIANS FIND YOU MOST DISTURBING, KARKAS!
THENA! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT US!?
THESE ARE DAYS OF WOE, INDEED!

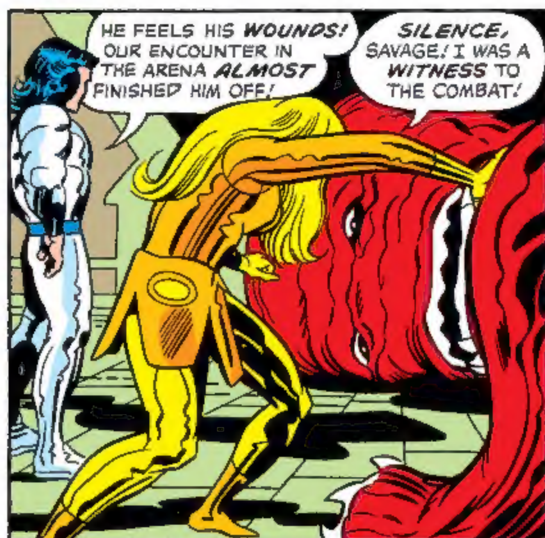

THE CONFRONTATION ENDURES FOR LONG MOMENTS. THE OLYMPIANS ARE STUNNED... THE DEVIANTS ARE AWED...
WHATEVER POSSESSED HER TO BRING THEM HERE?
THEIR PRESENCE WILL ONLY ADD FUEL TO THE CRISIS BEFORE US!
THAT IS A CERTAINTY!


SPEAK, THENA! THIS MAY MEAN CONFLICT IN OUR PEACEFUL REALM! YOU OWE US AN EXPLANATION!
THESE POOR BEINGS SOUGHT SANCTUARY FROM OPPRESSION! I GAVE IT TO THEM!
SHE NEEDN'T EXPLAIN THE HANDSOME ONE. I UNDERSTAND!
SO DO I!


"SWEET PRINCE" MUST HAVE TIRED OF BEATING OFF THOSE UGLY DEVIANT FEMALES...
I'LL WAGER THAT HE'LL FIND CONTENTMENT IN OLYMPIA!
HE IS A RARITY AMONG DEVIANTS, INDEED! BUT HE HAS YET TO LEARN THE ART OF ROMANCE!


THEN HE IS PERFECT FODDER FOR THE LADIES! --A GRAND DIVERSION FROM THE PROBLEMS OF THE MOMENT!
WELCOME TO SANCTUARY, SWEET PRINCE!!

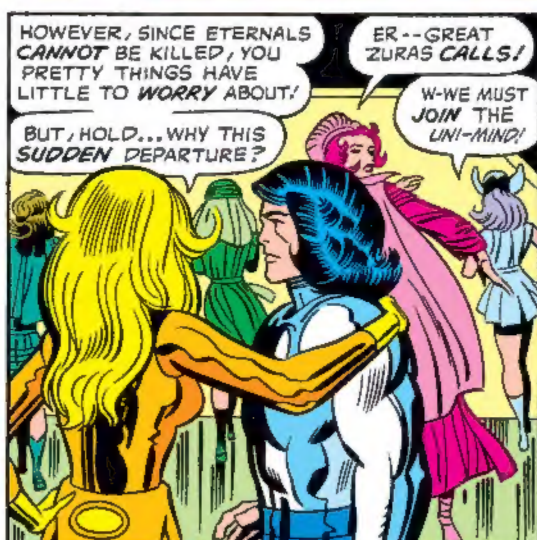

AT THAT MOMENT...
CRASH!
KARKAS! WHA--?

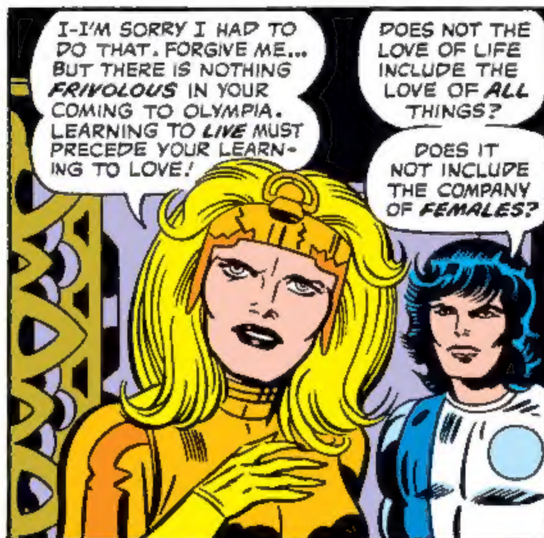

HE FEELS HIS WOUNDS! OUR ENCOUNTER IN THE ARENA ALMOST FINISHED HIM OFF!
SILENCE, SAVAGE! I WAS A WITNESS TO THE COMBAT!


KARKAS ... YOUR INTELLECT FAR EXCEEDS YOUR TALENTS AS A MONSTER...
FEAR NOT. I SHALL SEE TO YOUR NEEDS!
THANK YOU, M'LADY. I-I AM IN YOUR DEBT...

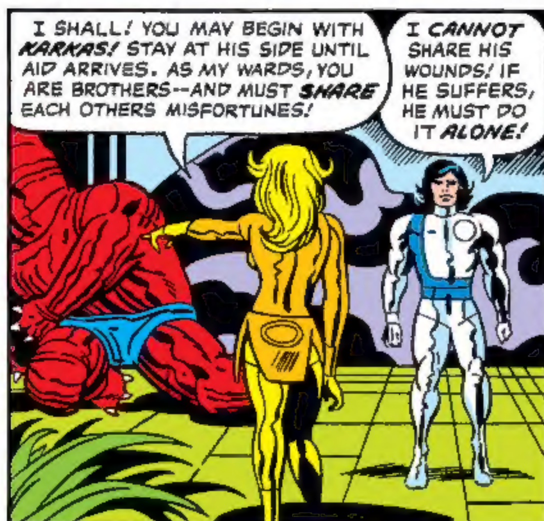

HOW EXCITING! THE DEVIANT IS NOT ONLY HANDSOME -- BUT HE JOUSTS WITH SINISTER BEHEMOTHS!
HE IS A MALE TO BE RECKON-ED WITH!
SUCH SHOULDERS ... SUCH ARMS! HOW COMFORTING THEY COULD BE!
HAVE A CARE, LEST THEY CAUSE YOU GRIEF! HE IS NOT THE PLAYTHING YOU TAKE HIM TO BE!


I MAKE NO PRETENSE OF GENTILITY. MY LIFE HAS BEEN ONE OF KILLING, TO SURVIVE COMBAT IN THE ARENA!
AND YOU DO IT SO WELL --DON'T YOU, --SWEET PRINCE--!


HOWEVER, SINCE ETERNALS CANNOT BE KILLED, YOU PRETTY THINGS HAVE LITTLE TO WORRY ABOUT!
BUT, HOLD... WHY THIS SUDDEN DEPARTURE?
ER--GREAT ZURAS CALLS!
W-WE MUST JOIN THE UNI-MIND!

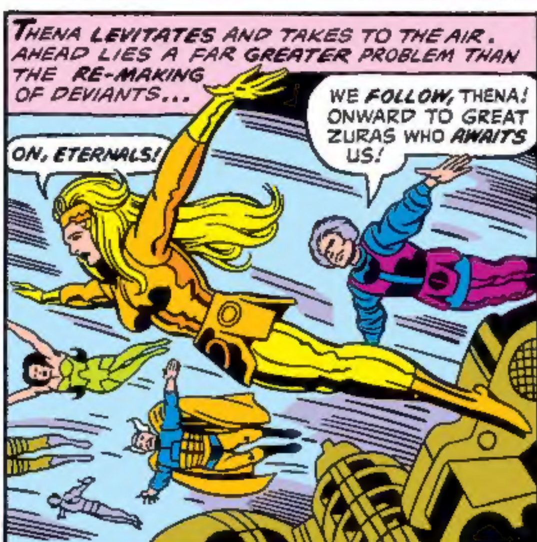

I-I'M SORRY I HAD TO DO THAT. FORGIVE ME... BUT THERE IS NOTHING FRIVOLOUS IN YOUR COMING TO OLYMPIA. LEARNING TO LIVE MUST PRECEDE YOUR LEARNING TO LOVE!
DOES NOT THE LOVE OF LIFE INCLUDE THE LOVE OF ALL THINGS?
DOES IT NOT INCLUDE THE COMPANY OF FEMALES?


LOVING IS CARING! LOVING IS RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY OF OTHERS! YOU'VE KNOWN NOTHING OF THAT, SWEET PRINCE!
SHOW ME, THEN! I'VE FOUND LITTLE TO CARE FOR YET!


I SHALL! YOU MAY BEGIN WITH KARKAS! STAY AT HIS SIDE UNTIL AID ARRIVES. AS MY WARDS, YOU ARE BROTHERS--AND MUST SHARE EACH OTHERS MISFORTUNES!
I CANNOT SHARE HIS WOUNDS! IF HE SUFFERS, HE MUST DO IT ALONE!

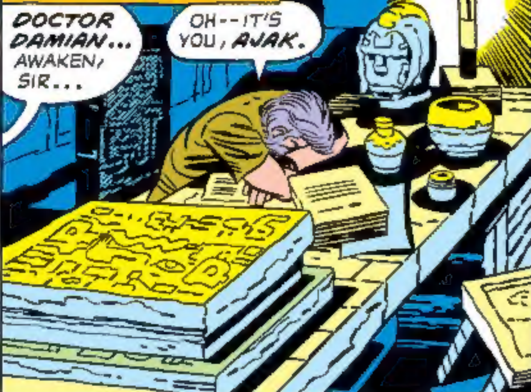

IT IS BLOOD, NOT TEARS, THAT ONE SHEDS IN THE ARENA! I SHALL NOT CRY FOR KARKAS!!
THEN, YOU WILL LEARN!
GUARD HIM WELL!
HEAR THAT, "REJECT?" HAHAHAH!


FORGET YOUR DEVIANT WAYS! CONTEMPLATE UPON A NEW LIFE HERE!
I SHALL RETURN WHEN THE UNI-MIND RITUAL IS OVER!


THENA LEVITATES AND TAKES TO THE AIR. AHEAD LIES A FAR GREATER PROBLEM THAN THE RE-MAKING OF DEVIANTS...
ON, ETERNALS!
WE FOLLOW, THENA! ONWARD TO GREAT ZURAS WHO AWAITS US!


MEANTIME, KARKAS AND THE REJECT HAVE BEEN LEFT TO THEMSELVES... WITH THE DARK THOUGHTS OF THEIR PAST... AND THE DISTURBING QUESTION OF THEIR FUTURE...
HAHAHAHAH! SMILE, SWEET PRINCE! DESTINY PLAYS THE CLOWN WITH BOTH OF US! HERE, I MAY YET BECOME A PHILOSOPHER OF NOTE!--AND YOU, MASTER KILLER, MAY INHERIT THE BALCONIES AND ROSE GARDENS OF FAIR YOUNG MAIDENS!!
EASE YOUR BATTLE STANCE! THE SHADOWS HIDE NOTHING BUT COOL BREEZES... THERE ARE NO ENEMIES --IN PARADISE!
FOOL! IT'S SMALL WONDER THAT YOU FALL PREY TO SMALLER OPPONENTS!
PARADISE IS JUST ANOTHER PLACE! --AND EACH PLACE HAS CORNERS FOR THE WARY EYE TO SCOUR AND SEEK OUT--TO CERTIFY THE STATE OF THEIR IMPOTENCE!


MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE WORLD, UPON THE TOPMOST HEIGHTS OF THE ANDES MOUNTAINS, A HUGE DOME-LIKE STRUCTURE HAS APPEARED ON THE SITE OF DESOLATE RUINS, ONCE INHABITED BY THE ANCIENT INCAS...


WITHIN THE DOME ARE LOCKED THE SECRETS OF THE PAST AND THE TERRIFYING GHOSTS OF THE FUTURE... AND A TIRED OLD MAN, ADRIFT IN A TIMELESS VACUUM...
DOCTOR DAMIAN... AWAKEN, SIR...
OH--IT'S YOU, AJAK.


THERE ARE ENDLESS ROWS OF INCA TABLETS IN THIS OLD TEMPLE--BUT YOU CANNOT DECIPHER THEM ALL WITHIN THE SPAN OF A DAY!
YES...I KNOW--I SHALL HAVE THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS TO COMPLETE MY TASK!

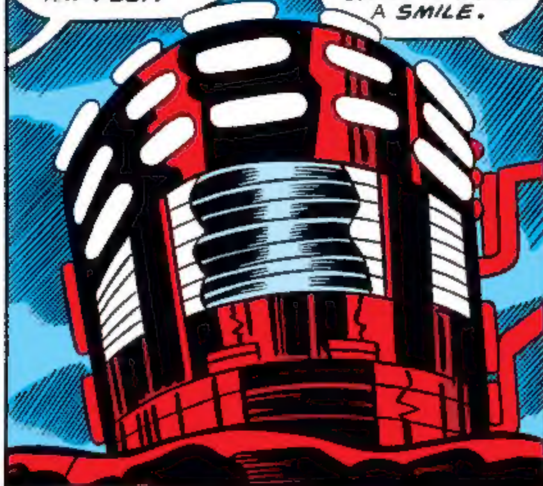

WE SHALL BOTH REMAIN HERE FOR THAT TIME. IT IS THE WILL OF THE SPACE GODS, WHO BUILT THE DOME!
FIFTY YEARS... IT'S BUT A MERE MOMENT FOR AN ETERNAL LIKE YOURSELF! THE PASSING CENTURIES ARE MEANINGLESS TO YOUR CALENDAR!

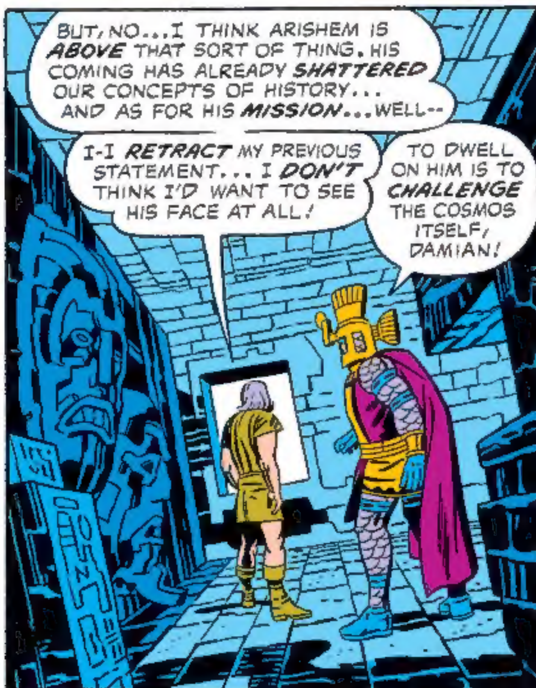

TRUE ENOUGH... YET, IT IS YOU, A HUMAN, WHO LABORS WITH FRANTIC EFFORT.
SLOW DOWN, DOCTOR DAMIAN. YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH ALL YOU WISH WITHIN THE TIME ALLOTTED TO US!
YES...I MUST LEARN TO BALANCE WORK WITH REST!


THAT IS A WISE THOUGHT. I WOULD RECOMMEND YOU APPLY IT WITH FIRM DECISION!
TIME WEIGHS HEAVILY ON HUMANS.
I WONDER WHAT TIME MEANS TO HIM! WHAT IS HE DOING WITH IT!?
WHAT IS GOING ON IN THAT GIANT CELESTIAL'S HEAD?

ON THE ANCIENT CEREMONIAL PYLONS, ARISHEM, LEADER OF THE FOURTH CELESTIAL HOST, STANDS, IMMOBILE AS THE MOUNTAINS OUTSIDE THE DOME. YET, ALL THAT MOVES UPON THE EARTH BECOMES MOTION WITHIN HIM... HIS BODY IS ALIVE WITH THE PRESSURES AND THE CRACKLINGS CAUSED BY THE MOVEMENT OF THE PLANET ITSELF...

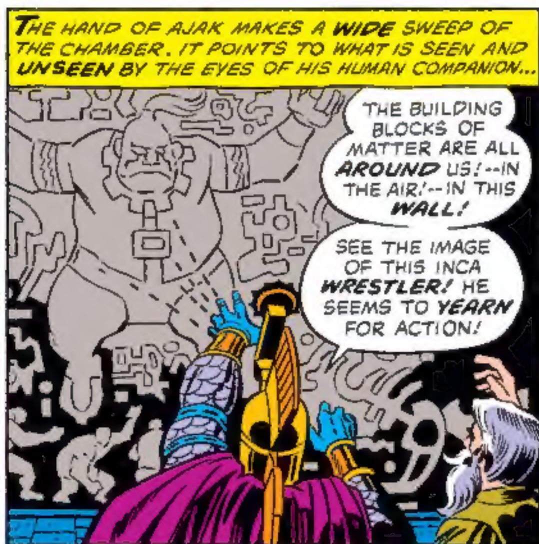
HE STANDS THERE, DAY AFTER PASSING DAY, WITHOUT TWITCHING A FINGER... YET, SOMEHOW--I KNOW HE IS ACTIVE... DOING THINGS THAT WILL CHANGE OUR WORLD...



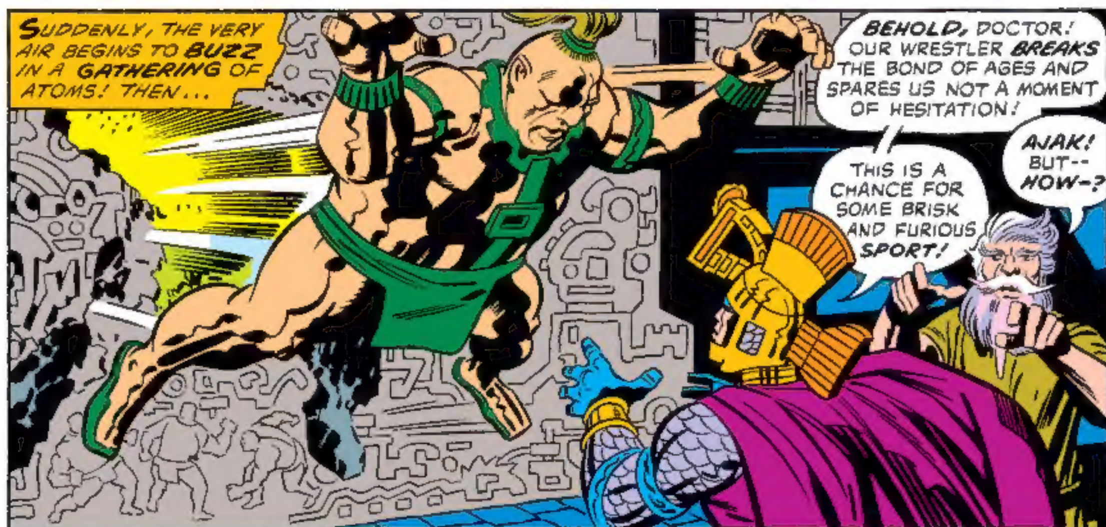




THERE ARE TOO FEW DIVERSIONS IN THIS PLACE TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE!
THE YEARS THAT LIE AHEAD WILL BE LONG AND LONELY!
NOT SO, DOCTOR! NO PLACE ON EARTH HOLDS MORE POTENTIAL FOR DIVERSITY THAN THIS ANCIENT RUIN!



THE HAND OF AJAK MAKES A WIDE SWEEP OF THE CHAMBER. IT POINTS TO WHAT IS SEEN AND UNSEEN BY THE EYES OF HIS HUMAN COMPANION...
THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MATTER ARE ALL AROUND US!--IN THE AIR!--IN THIS WALL!
SEE THE IMAGE OF THIS INCA WRESTLER! HE SEEMS TO YEARN FOR ACTION!



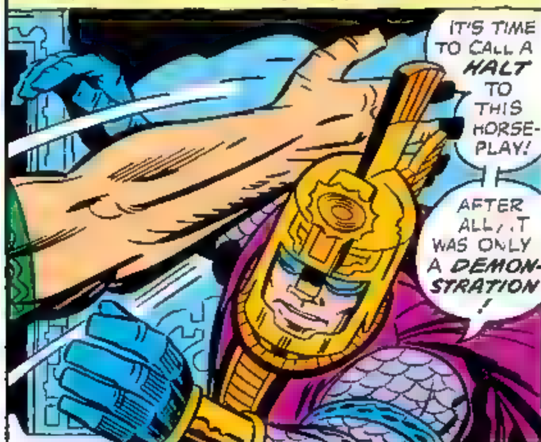
SUDDENLY, THE VERY AIR BEGINS TO BUZZ IN A GATHERING OF ATOMS! THEN...
BEHOLD, DOCTOR! OUR WRESTLER BREAKS THE BOND OF AGES AND SPARES US NOT A MOMENT OF HESITATION!
THIS IS A CHANCE FOR SOME BRISK AND FURIOUS SPORT!
AJAK! BUT-- HOW-?

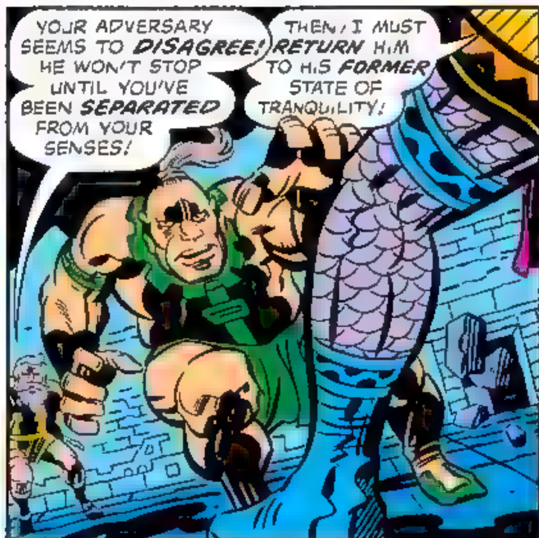


BEFORE DOCTOR DAMIAN CAN MARSHAL HIS SENSES, AJAK CLOSES WITH THE FAST-MOVING BULK, WHICH ONLY SECONDS BEFORE HAD BEEN A FLAT, LIFELESS IMAGE...
B-BUT THIS IS ASTOUNDING! LOOK OUT, AJAK-!
I AM WELL PREPARED FOR THIS!

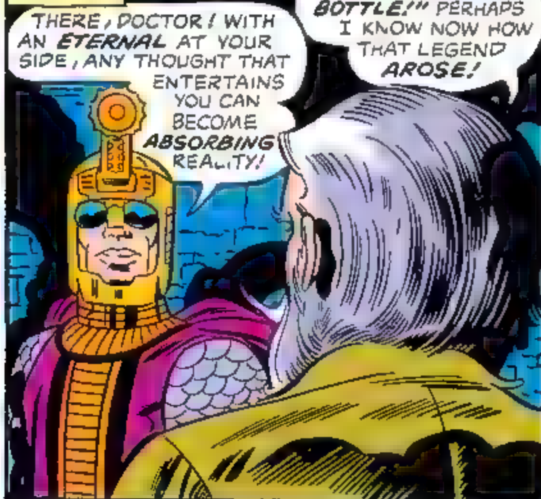


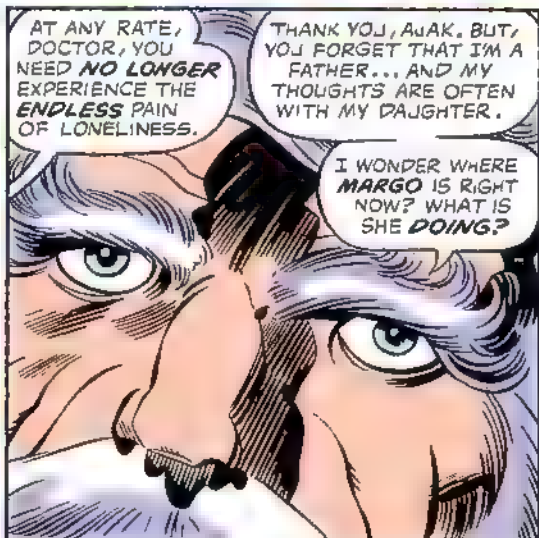
BY GUMPTION--! SO YOU ARE!! YOU HANDLE HIM JUST LIKE A PROFESSIONAL!
IT TAKES PRACTICE! AND I'VE HAD CENTURIES OF IT!!


AJAK IS A FIGURE OF SUPERB PRECISION. HE CRAFTILY FRUSTRATES EVERY EFFORT OF HIS MOUNTAINOUS OPPONENT TO SECURE A DAMAGING HOLD AND A QUICK VICTORY...
IT'S TIME TO CALL A HALT TO THIS HORSE-PLAY!
AFTER ALL, IT WAS ONLY A DEMONSTRATION!


YOUR ADVERSARY SEEMS TO DISAGREE! HE WON'T STOP UNTIL YOU'VE BEEN SEPARATED FROM YOUR SENSES!
THEN, I MUST RETURN HIM TO HIS FORMER STATE OF TRANQUILITY!


UTILIZING THE AMAZING FACULTY COMMON TO HIS SPECIES, AJAK HURLS APART THE ATOMS WHICH HE SO SKILLFULLY PUT TOGETHER...
BE AS YOU WERE! YOUR WORK IS DONE!
SFUT!


THEN...
THERE, DOCTOR! WITH AN ETERNAL AT YOUR SIDE, ANY THOUGHT THAT ENTERTAINS YOU CAN BECOME ABSORBING REALITY!
"THE GENIE IN THE BOTTLE!" PERHAPS I KNOW NOW HOW THAT LEGEND AROSE!


AT ANY RATE, DOCTOR, YOU NEED NO LONGER EXPERIENCE THE ENDLESS PAIN OF LONELINESS.
THANK YOU, AJAK. BUT, YOU FORGET THAT I'M A FATHER... AND MY THOUGHTS ARE OFTEN WITH MY DAUGHTER.
I WONDER WHERE MARGO IS RIGHT NOW? WHAT IS SHE DOING?


AT THAT MOMENT, IN HIGH OLYMPIA, MARGO DAMIAN HAS BECOME MORE OF A PARTICIPANT THAN SPECTATOR IN THE MIRACULOUS LIFE-STYLE OF THE ETERNALS. LEVITATION, LONG DENIED TO HUMANS, HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HER AS A SHARED POWER, IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE THE MOST FANTASTIC OF RITUALS: THE UNI-MIND!
IKARIS! I-I'M FRIGHTENED! GLIDING HUNDREDS OF FEET ABOVE THE GROUND WITHOUT SUPPORT, IS A TERRIFYING FEELING--!
DON'T LEAVE ME! STAY NEARBY!
KEEP YOUR COURAGE, MARGO! YOU WON'T FALL! IT IS THE POWER OF MY MIND WHICH SUPPORTS US BOTH!
RELAX, MARGO! HE'S NEVER DROPPED A GIRL, YET!
--NOR I, A MAN, MAKARRI. --ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE SUCH FINE SPECIMENS AS MY GOOD FRIEND SAMUEL.
T-THAT'S V-V-VERY R-REASSURING, SERSI...

CALLED FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE EARTH BY GREAT **ZURAS**, ELDEST OF THE ETERNALS, THIS SPECIES OF MAN NOW FILLS THE SKY IN A RITUAL FLIGHT, MADE ONLY IN TIMES OF **WORLD STRESS!**

AS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST, YOU WILL FIND THE **FORMING** OF THE UNI-MIND A **RARE** TREAT, HOLDEN!

Y-Y-YES! Y-Y-YES! **TERRIBLY** EXCITING I-IKARIS!

HAHAHAHAH! YOU SEEM READY TO PASS OUT FROM THE SHEER **THRILL** OF IT, SAMJEL!

BUT, HANG ON. THERE'S MUCH **MORE** TO COME!

THE **PRELIMINARY** STEP TO UNI-MIND CONTINUES IN THE **GRACEFUL** FLIGHT OF THE MYRIAD ETERNALS, UNTIL...

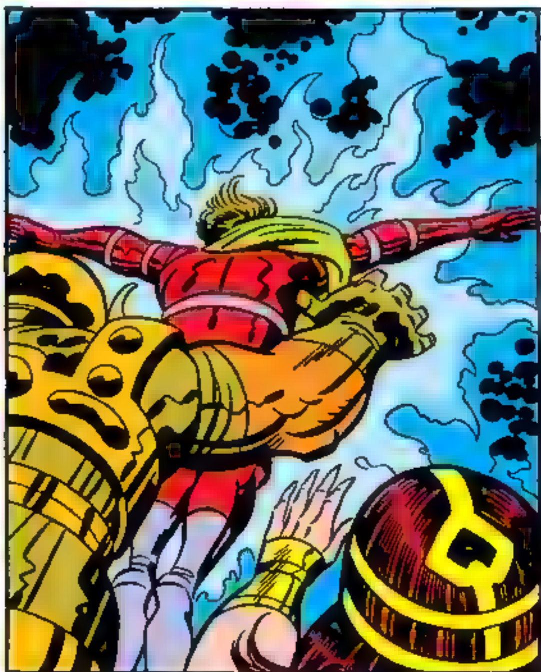
ALL IS READY! THE MIND AND ESSENCE OF ZURAS REACHES OUT TO YOU! COME TO ZURAS! JOIN WHAT IS ZURAS!

SUDDENLY, A BRILLIANT BLUE FLAME BURSTS FROM ZURAS HIMSELF! IT IS NOT FIRE IN THE ORDINARY SENSE, BUT STEMS FROM THE MIND IN FULL DOMINANCE OVER THE BODY. IT IS ZURAS IN TOTALITY!!--AND BECOMES A SEETHING PRESENCE OF ITS OWN!!

COME!--COME--AND JOIN!!

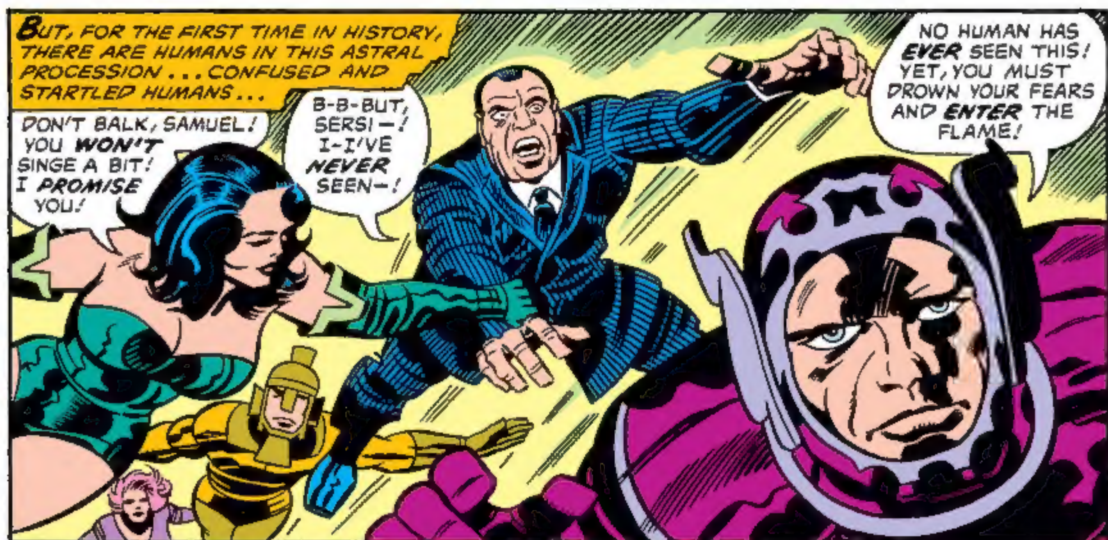


THEN, THEY COME! --SWEEPING IN LONG COLUMNS OF GRACEFUL FLIGHT, THE CHILDREN OF ZURAS SHOUT IN JOY AS THEY ENTER THE BLUE FLAME AND ARE ONE WITH THE GREATEST OF THEIR SPECIES...



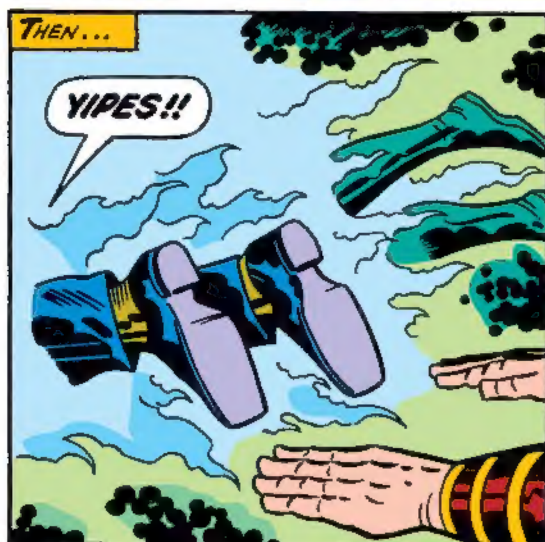
THE FLAME GLOWS BRIGHTER AND STRONGER AS EACH ETERNAL PASSES AND VANISHES INTO ITS HUNGRY CORE...

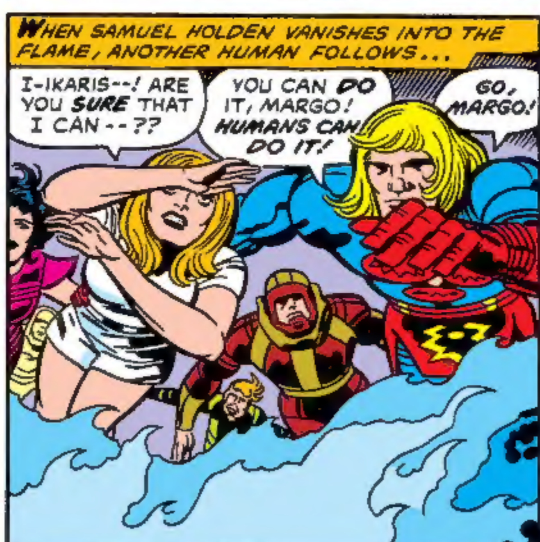
LET ALL THAT IS ZURAS BE OURS! LET ALL THAT IS OURS BECOME THE UNI-MIND!

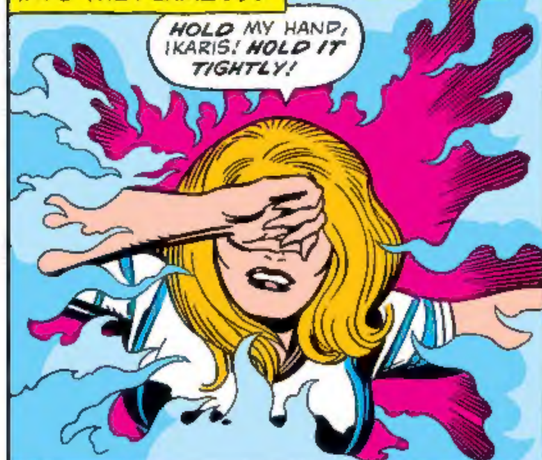

BUT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, THERE ARE HUMANS IN THIS ASTRAL PROCESSION ... CONFUSED AND STARTLED HUMANS ...
DON'T BALK, SAMUEL! YOU WON'T SINGE A BIT! I PROMISE YOU!
B-B-BUT, SERSI --! I-I'VE NEVER SEEN--!
NO HUMAN HAS EVER SEEN THIS! YET, YOU MUST DROWN YOUR FEARS AND ENTER THE FLAME!


HE'S RIGHT, SAM! THAT FLAME IS LIFE, NOT DEATH! IT IS LIFE AS YOU HAVE NEVER KNOWN IT BEFORE!
I-I'M TRYING T-TO UNDERSTAND, SERSI! Y-YOU DON'T KNOW HOW HARD I'M TRYING --!


W-W-WE'RE GOING INTO IT! T-T-THERE'S N-NO TURNING BACK! DON'T LEAVE ME, SERSI!!

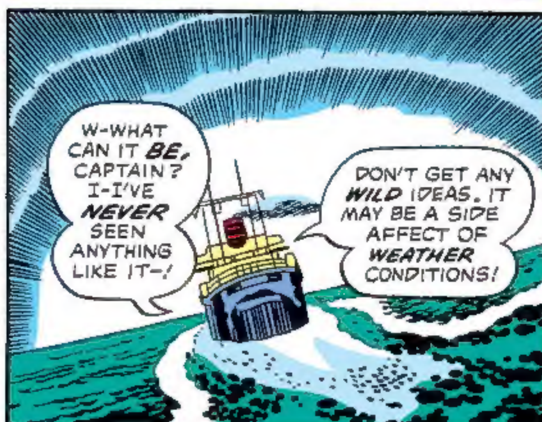

THEN ...
YIPES!!

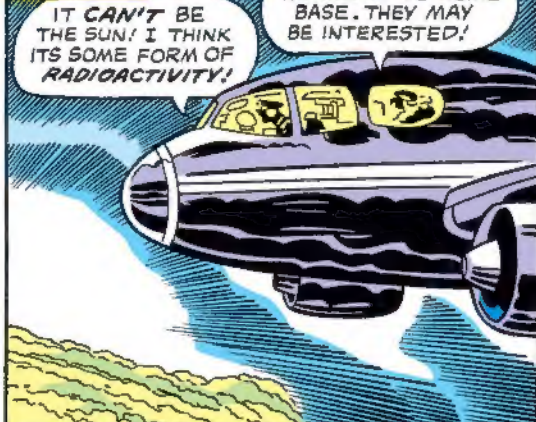

WHEN SAMUEL HOLDEN VANISHES INTO THE FLAME, ANOTHER HUMAN FOLLOWS ...
I-IKARIS--! ARE YOU SURE THAT I CAN --??
YOU CAN DO IT, MARGO! HUMANS CAN DO IT!
GO, MARGO!


COVERING HER EYES AT THE MOMENT OF ENTRY, MARGO DAMIAN BRAVELY GLIDES INTO THE FLAME...
HOLD MY HAND, IKARIS! HOLD IT TIGHTLY!


MARGO PASSES THROUGH AND FEELS NO HEAT OR PAIN. THERE IS ONLY A BRIGHT BLINDING FLASH BEFORE SHE CEASES AS ONE, AND BECOMES--MANY!
ZSH!

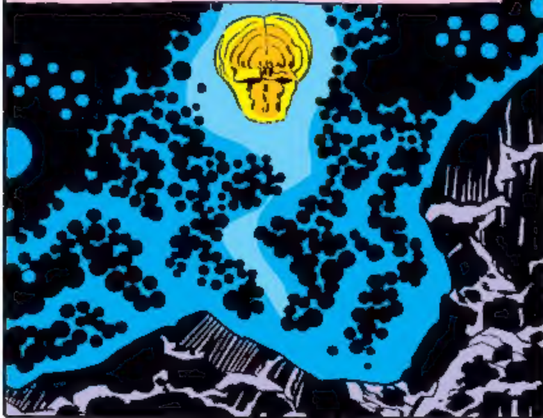

SOON AFTER, THE VILLAGERS OF A REMOTE COMMUNITY BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS WITNESS THE APPEARANCE OF AN AMAZING PHENOMENON...
LOOK! THE MOUNTAINS GLOW, AS THEY DID IN ANCIENT DAYS!
IT IS AN OMEN!--AN EVIL OMEN!
HARD TIMES ARE UPON US! --DAYS OF CONFLICT AND WOE!

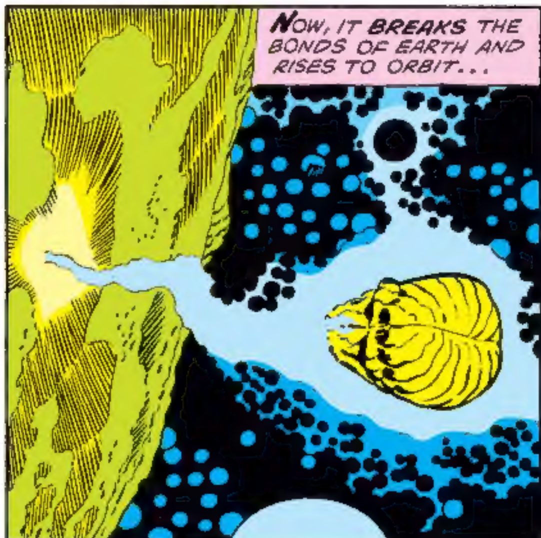

THE STRANGE GLOW INCREASES IN INTENSITY. IT PERMEATES THE NIGHT AND SPANS THE DISTANCES TO THE SEA. IT ADDS ANOTHER MYSTERY TO THE LOGS OF BAFFLED SHIPS...
W-WHAT CAN IT BE, CAPTAIN? I-I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT-!
DON'T GET ANY WILD IDEAS. IT MAY BE A SIDE AFFECT OF WEATHER CONDITIONS!

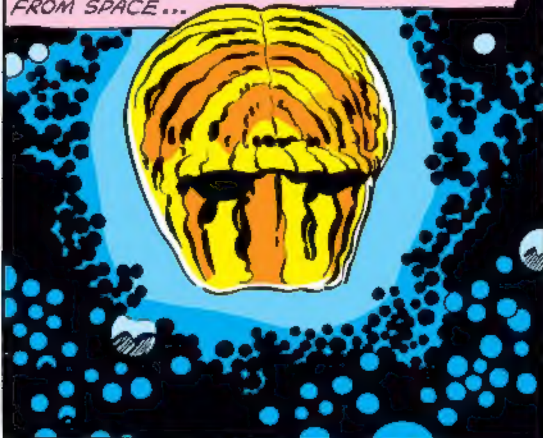

HIGH ABOVE THE CLOUDS, THE GLOW SEEMS LIKE A RISING BLUE DAWN. BUT, IT IS A DAWN WHICH COMES AT AN UNEXPECTED HOUR...
IT CAN'T BE THE SUN! I THINK ITS SOME FORM OF RADIOACTIVITY!
REPORT IT TO HOME BASE. THEY MAY BE INTERESTED!

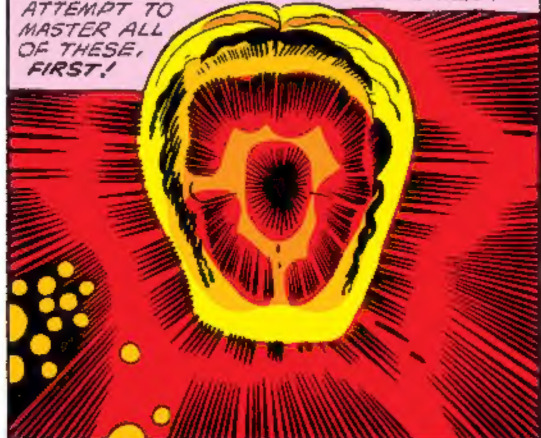


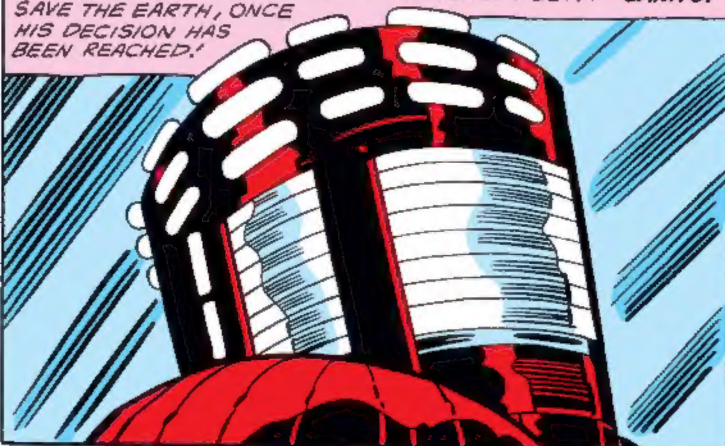
IN FULL VIEW IT IS LIKE NO OTHER LIFE-FORM ON EARTH. IT IS A LIVING **GROUP-ORGANISM!** --THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND...











IF YOU THINK THAT **THIS** IS HEAVY STUFF--**WATCH FOR THE HEAVIEST!** --WITH **ACTION,** YET! KEEP TABS ON THE UNI-MIND, ARISHEM, AND THE..

ASTRO NAUTS

NEXT ISSUE!!!